

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 311, I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TO RECOGNIZE JIM HINKLE FOR SERVICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE MANTUA CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Jim Hinkle and to congratulate him as he completes his tenure as the President of the Mantua Citizens' Association, MCA.

Like other home owners associations, the MCA responds to the needs of its residents, circulates local news, and coordinates volunteer services and community projects. As a former president of the MCA myself, I know firsthand the time and effort Mr. Hinkle has devoted to helping improve our community and maintain its rich quality of life.

During his tenure, Mr. Hinkle has tackled local environmental, safety, and road maintenance challenges. The nearby fuel tanker farm continues to be a perennial concern, particularly given recent spills and accidents. Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated effective leadership, collaborating with local, state and federal authorities, including the Environmental Protection Agency and my office. Thanks to our coordinated efforts, improved safety measures are being implemented.

Whether it's projects large or small, Mr. Hinkle has demonstrated a passion for community service. After the severe winter storms of 2010, he proposed a community service project for a local Boy Scout troop. The Scouts identified deficiencies in the neighborhood roads and made a presentation to the Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, which organized the necessary repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Hinkle for his tremendous service to the Mantua community. Though his tenure as president has come to a close, I am confident we will continue to benefit from his contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.: 371, "no;" 372, "no;" 373, "no;" 374, "no;" 375, "no;" 376, "yes;" 377, "yes;" 378, "no." Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated.

HONORING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth Independence Day Celebration. Juneteenth, celebrated on the 19th of June, is a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of African Americans from slavery but has come to signify much more. It is celebrated in June, the month that the last African Americans were informed of their Emancipation.

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, which came into effect on January 1, 1863. Critically, following the conclusion of the Civil War, U.S. Government officials traversed through the South to enforce the Proclamation. It was not until June 19th, 1865, in Galveston, TX, that Union General Gordon Granger declared freedom for the last major vestige of slavery in the United States, marking one of the proudest days in all of African American history.

Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth Independence Day is a holiday that should not go without note. This date represents a crucial milestone in African American history and demonstrates the evolution of our Nation over the last century and a half. Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. I encourage all of my constituents to take part in the day's festivities and also to reflect on the values of self-improvement, assessment, and future-planning which are consistent with the spirit of Juneteenth.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PLATTSBURGH RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifteenth annual Plattsburgh Relay for Life.

This event has not only strived for years to raise money and awareness in an effort to eradicate cancer, but it serves as a tribute to all those who have bravely fought this tragic disease.

This annual event honors the courageous efforts these individuals have demonstrated in their fight for life and remembers those that have lost the battle. Tonight we especially remember our dear friend, Marie Guay, who lost her brave fight with cancer last year. As the former Relay for Life Survivor Chair, Marie devoted countless hours ensuring that cancer survivors were honored and celebrated. So tonight we remember all of her efforts and together honor her memory.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the work of the entire Relay for Life committee and its participants. I commend each and every one of you for keeping the valiant struggle of these individuals in all our memories and working to ensure that more people survive cancer and are able to celebrate another birthday.

THE HUMAN COST OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness and regret: we have reached 2,000 American troop deaths in the War in Afghanistan—a war we needlessly continue to fight. My sincerest condolences go out to the families, friends, and communities who have lost loved ones to a war I have ardently opposed for the past 11 years.

Americans are not alone in our loss. As of summer 2011, conservative estimates indicate that anywhere between 30,000 and 45,000 Afghan civilians have lost their lives to this war. I will never understand why we continually squander lives and money to achieve tactical or strategic military goals. The cost is simply too great; the ends do not justify the means.

Seventy percent of Americans want a complete and early withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, according to a recent Rasmussen poll. Yet we do not listen, so more lives are lost in this nonsensical war. I hope that someday soon we will finally bring home our troops and help restore peace to the nation of Afghanistan.

CONGRATULATING HUNTER WRIGHT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fresno resident Hunter Wright upon being named a recipient of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) 2012 Bright Minds Scholarship, a prestigious academic scholarship awarded to a small number of California high school students each year.

Miss Wright is one of 8,060 students from PG&E's Northern and Central California service area to apply for the \$30,000 Bright Minds Scholarship this year. The scholarship is renewable for up to four additional years. As one of eight winners, Miss Wright joins a highly select group of students participating in the utility company's largest scholarship program.

Miss Wright was informed of her scholarship award while sitting in her Advanced Placement English class, when Edison High School administrators and representatives from PG&E bearing a banner, balloons, cupcakes, and an oversize check surprised her. Her parents, Do-reen and Dave Wright, were also present for the announcement.

Miss Wright graduated from Edison High School on June 12, 2012. In addition to excelling in academics, she actively participated in cross-country, lacrosse, tennis, and regularly volunteered for various community causes. Miss Wright will attend the University of Miami this fall, where she plans to study English. She aspires to be an English professor.

In addition to her academic and career goals, Miss Wright hopes to continue traveling the world to do volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miss Hunter Wright of Fresno, California, for